October 9, 2018

Sharon Jennings
4230 Gardenspring Drive
Clemmons, NC 27012

PROUD ARMY Family

Dear Trainee,

I want to start by thanking you for your service. You may not feel like you have done anything yet, but you are a part of the 1% of America who signed up to do the job. That is big if you think about it. I am nobody special, just the mom of a trainee who is going through what you are going through but in a different battalion. There will be rough days. I mean <u>really rough</u> days when you will question your decision to do this, just know there really are better days ahead and the benefits of sticking it out and pushing through the pain will far outweigh the pain and challenges of the moment.

I pray for you all, every day to overcome obstacles you don't think you can and for your safety. I pray for you to love yourself and your fellow trainees. You will have to depend on each other at some point to do your MOS and possibly for your lives so learn to trust them and always strive to be the person they can trust. When you feel yourself falling into a "I can't do it" phase just remember all the things you have already done since you got to Fort Jackson. You will walk across that field on family day, through the smoke with more pride and glory than you ever knew was possible.

I believe in you and even though you are not my child. I feel such a connection to every soldier in the military and I want you to know I am here standing in the gap and praying for YOU to do what you need to do to achieve the goal you want to reach. Whatever your reason for joining the Army, the overall result is that you are sacrificing so that I can sleep in a free country and that makes you extra special to me. This is something you can take great pride in. <u>Be proud of yourself</u>.

Never take for granted the unity of the Army family and how your new brothers and sisters are there for you (just as you are for them). You are more than a team, you are a family now with millions of past and present members. I know I will not be there when you march out in your beret on Graduation Day, but you will be in my prayers and I will be beaming with pride watching the pics come across social media that day. You are almost there now, not much longer at all and it is within your grasp. If you want or need someone to write to you and be there for you I am available and will gladly take the time. It is my honor to be able to write to you and hopefully lift you up currently in your training. Keep on Keeping on!!

Whenever you find yourself doubting if you can go on, just remember how far you've come. Remember everything you have faced, all the battles you have won and all the fears you have overcome. Then raise your head high and forge on ahead, knowing that YOU GOT THIS!
The Giant in front of you is never bigger than the strength INSIDE of you!
When you feel like quitting, think about why you started!

ARMYSTRONG!!!!

Sincerely,
Sharon Jennings
Army Mom

Sharon Jennings

The HARDEST BATTLE you will ever have to FIGHT is between who you are NOW and who you WANT TO BE

Geographics

Trainee